

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

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Approved For Release 2005/08/15 : CIA-RDP87B01034R000200100017-5

WASHINGTON

MAR 5 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR JAMES MCINTYRE

FROM:

RAY MARSHALL

Ray Marshall

SUBJECT:

Federal Workplace Safety and Health

I am very concerned about our poor record in preventing job-related accidents and illnesses among Federal workers.

A few facts should put this problem in perspective:

--More than \$1 billion annually goes to pay compensation and related costs for Federal workers because of accident and illness.

--The number of workdays lost by Federal workers because of job-related reasons more than doubled between 1973 and 1977. The number of illnesses and injuries has gone up by about 50 percent in the same period. Injury rates in the private sector have declined during the same period.

The economic costs of this problem are obvious. But there are other problems, as well. The business community has been quick to note that we vigorously enforce OSHA standards in the private sector but do not appear to do so within the Federal government. They contend that this double standard is inequitable. This attitude erodes the commitment to voluntary compliance that is at the heart of the OSHA program.